IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.　(Currently Amended) A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:

~~using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote client to a host;~~

receiving <u>at a host a trigger sequence sent by a remote client to the host via a transport</u> mechanism, the trigger <u>sequence comprising a series of attempts to connect to the host via a prescribed sequence of two or more trigger ports</u>;

authenticating the <u>remote client based at least in part on receipt of the</u> trigger <u>sequence</u>; and

opening the covert service channel to allow ~~a connection with the remote host~~ <u>the authenticated remote client to communicate with the host via the covert service channel</u>.

2.　(Previously Presented)　A method as recited in claim 1 wherein using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a protocol to format the transport mechanism.

3.　(Previously Presented)　A method as recited in claim 1 wherein using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a backscatter effect as the trigger.

4.　(Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes opening a port <u>other than a trigger port</u>.

5.　(Previously Presented)　A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a reply to the remote client.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes spawning a service if the <u>remote client is authenticated based at least in part on the</u> trigger <u>sequence</u> ~~is authenticated~~.

7.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes establishing a connection between the remote client and a service on the host.

8.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes receiving a request from the remote client.

9.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a response by an operating system on the host to the remote client.

10.   (Previously Presented)   A method f as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending an address from the host to the remote client for establishing the connection.

11.   (Currently Amended) A system for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:

    a <u>communication interface configured to receive a trigger sequence sent by a remote client via a transport mechanism, the trigger sequence comprising a series of attempts to connect to the system via a prescribed sequence of two or more trigger ports</u> ~~transport mechanism for sending a trigger from a remote client to a host~~; and

    a <u>processor coupled to the communication interface and configured to authenticate the remote client based at least in part on the received trigger sequence and open</u> ~~stealth application on the host for receiving the trigger from the remote client, authenticating the trigger on the target host, and opening~~ the covert service channel ~~on the host~~ to allow ~~a connection with~~ the <u>authenticated</u> remote client <u>to communicate with the system via the covert service channel</u>.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently amended)   A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:

sending a pre-defined trigger sequence to a ~~port on a~~ remote host, the trigger sequence comprising a series of attempts to connect to the remote host via a prescribed sequence of two or more trigger ports;

waiting for a pre-defined time period;

sending a connection request to [[the]] a covert service channel port on the remote host after the pre-defined time period has expired; and

establishing a connection over the covert service channel with the remote host.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Cancelled)